

December 4, 2001

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2299,
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2001

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my most sincere appreciation to the Transportation Appropriations conferees for their outstanding work in preparing the FY 2002 Transportation Conference report. In recent years, Sacramento has become one of the fastest growing regions in the country. This sudden surge in population has led to massive traffic congestion and severe air quality problems. Ensuring that Sacramento's infrastructure can simultaneously accommodate this growth and improve the region's air quality is absolutely essential.

I am grateful for Chairman ROGER's and Ranking Member SABO's commitment to providing appropriate funding levels for several ongoing programs that are of vital importance to maximizing efficiency in the greater Sacramento region. These funds will provide much needed transportation options to lower-income individuals, improve the region's air quality and improve traffic flow in impacted corridors.

In addition, the inclusion of first time funding for the Interstate 5 Freeway Decking Project represents a tremendous boost for the Sacramento Riverfront Redevelopment Master Plan. Once complete, this decking project will allow the downtown Capitol Mall area to be reconnected with the waterfront, helping Sacramento to realize its long-term goal of linking its major recreational, entertainment and cultural districts with its major employment center.

The beneficial effects of these projects are endless. I could not be more pleased with the outcome of this conference report and remain grateful for the unwavering support of this committee.

CONDEMNATION OF HUMAN
CLONING

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express in the most serious terms my opposition to the recent acts of Advanced Cell Technology in Massachusetts to create the first cloned human embryo. Most scientific discoveries are a step forward for human kind, but ACT's announcement over the Thanksgiving holiday does not pose such promise. Instead, it signifies a sick and perverted experiment that will result in the destruction of hundreds of lives and the devaluing of all human life.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

We all remember Dolly the sheep, the first cloned animal in the world. Well, Mr. Speaker, Dolly was the result of 277 attempts at creating a cloned sheep. Sheep numbers 1-276 didn't make it. They all died in different stages of development and were discarded. Do we want to allow such experimentation to be conducted on the human race? If we allow such a mad science to occur, we will be permitting the same kind of immoral practices as the human eugenics experiments in Nazi Germany.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must act now to ban human cloning before America becomes host to another holocaust. In July of this year, our colleagues in House acted in a timely and responsible manner to pass legislation banning human cloning. The bill passed in a bipartisan manner by more than 100 votes.

Since that time, Majority Leader of the opposing house has demonstrated an utter disregard for human life by preventing the bill from going forward at the other end of the Capitol. I now urge the majority leader of the other body to follow this House, the President and the will of the American people to bring H.R. 2505 to an immediate vote. The time is short as groups like ACT are pushing forward to create the first cloned human being. We must stop these crimes against humanity before it is too late.

IN HONOR OF TAMMY BLANCHARD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Tammy Blanchard for winning an Emmy in her portrayal of the young Judy Garland in "Me and My Shadow: Life with Judy Garland." The Bayonne Public School System will recognize her outstanding accomplishments by declaring Wednesday, December 5, 2001, as "Tammy Blanchard Day." On December 5th, Ms. Blanchard will be honored during a fundraising party at Chandelier Restaurant in Bayonne, New Jersey. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Bayonne High School Vocal Music Program.

Tammy Blanchard has enjoyed an extensive and successful acting and modeling career that has included many awards and acclamations. She has appeared in numerous television commercials and has modeled for several teen magazines and catalogues. In addition to her acting role in "Me and My Shadow: Life with Judy Garland," Tammy Blanchard has also appeared in episodes of "Guiding Light" and "Law and Order." Future projects include acting parts in "The Promise," scheduled to be in movie theaters April, 2002, and the upcoming Lifetime television movie, "We Were the Mulvaneys."

A native of Bayonne, New Jersey, Tammy Blanchard is a 1994 graduate of Bayonne High School. She continues to reside in Bayonne, sharing a house with her mother, Ms. Patricia Rettig, and her brothers, William Blanchard III and Thomas Walters.

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In light of her many accomplishments, I would like to extend my personal congratulations and my warmest regards to Tammy Blanchard for her many achievements.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tammy Blanchard for her magnificent acting career and commitment to helping assist students in the Bayonne Public School System.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GENNARO J.
DIMASO "2001 MAN OF THE
YEAR" COLUMBUS DAY CELEBRATION

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, each year the Italian American community celebrates Columbus Day, with festivities including a weekend of food, music, and fun, as well as an annual Columbus Day Parade and Banquet. With organizations and committees dedicated to promoting and preserving the Italian-American heritage through language, culture, music, and social events, the Columbus Day Committee is no exception. Honoring distinguished Italian-Americans who have shown outstanding service in their local communities, each year the Columbus Day Committee selects individuals who demonstrate these qualities. On Sunday, October 7, as the families and friends gathered together at their annual Columbus Day Banquet, they recognized Dr. Gennaro J. DiMaso as their "2001 Man of the Year".

As past president of the St. John Guild and recipient of the Guild's Lifetime Achievement Award, Dr. Gennaro J. DiMaso has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to both the Italian and American communities. Dr. DiMaso has truly dedicated his time and efforts to the care of generations of children. With an unconventional, but warm-hearted approach, Dr. DiMaso, "the doctor in blue jeans" has devoted his life and profession to providing patients with the highest standards of quality health care. Understanding that the "only treasure on Earth we have are kids", he has worked tirelessly for 44 years to meet the needs of his young patients, and never refused care to an impoverished child.

Dr. DiMaso instilled in his young eastside patients the importance of hard work and commitment to the community. As a young boy, he dreamed of becoming a doctor and helping others while he worked with his father to sell vegetables in their Brooklyn neighborhood, growing up in an area where going to high school, let alone medical school, was unheard of. He has passed along this tradition of perseverance and community service to his four children and six grandchildren.

I applaud the 2001 Columbus Day Committee and Dr. DiMaso for their leadership, commitment, and service, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting them for their exemplary years of leadership and service.